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Tuesday



JOSHUA GATES WEISBERG/REUTERS

Michael Jackson and his father at court Monday.

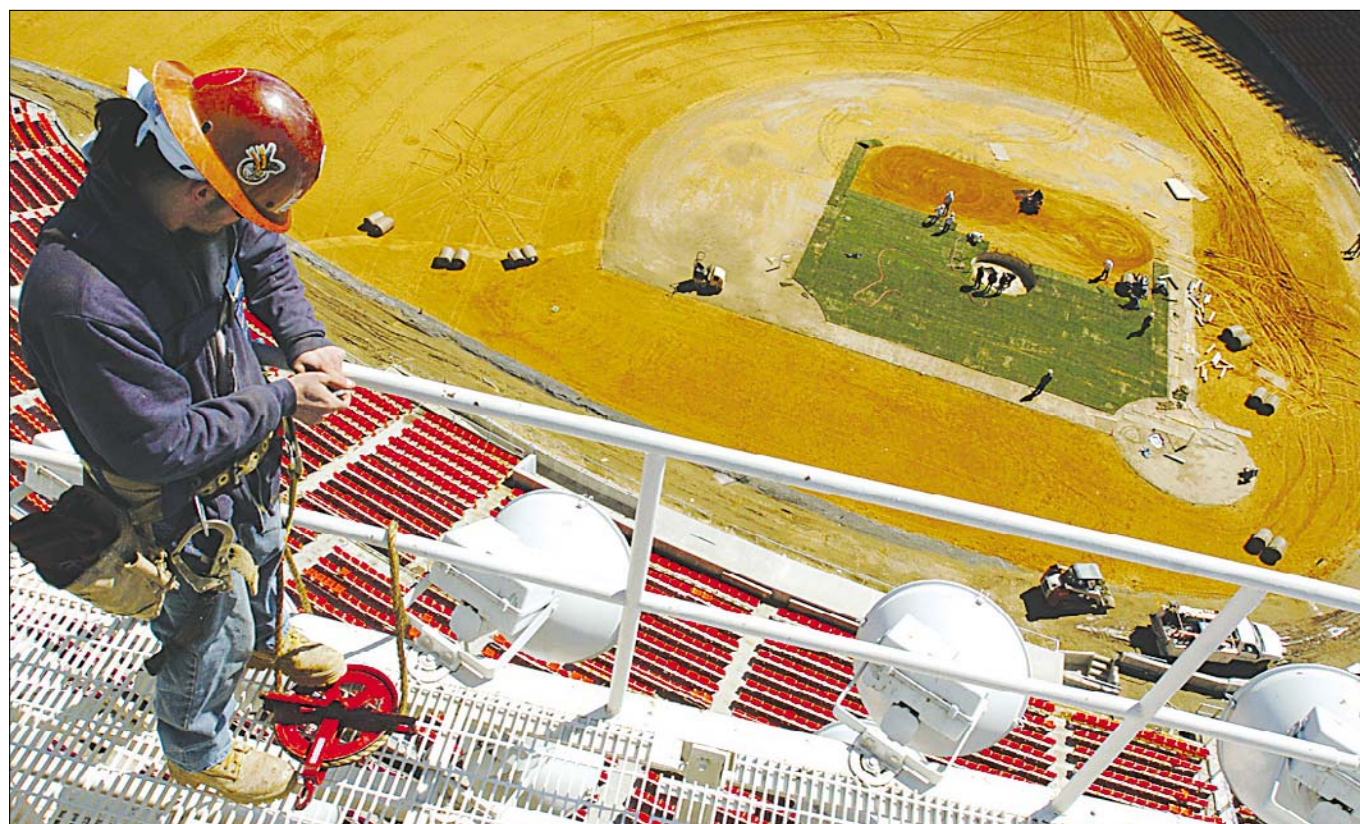
Mixed Message: Accuser admits he told a teacher Jackson 'didn't do anything to me' | **3**

Gang Bust: 103 members of MS-13 netted in crackdown | **10**



Benched: UVa. basketball coach Gillen out after lackluster 7-year stint | **15**

THE NATIONALS | ROOTS FOR THE HOME TEAM



JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

DIRTY WORK: RFK Stadium is starting to look like a baseball field now that the sod has arrived. Crews began laying more than 100,000 square feet of Bermuda grass on Monday. The Nationals are set to play their first home exhibition game April 3. **Rush job:** Crews hurry to beat the clock | **Page 15**

ENTERTAINMENT

Role Call: Comedian *Jennifer Coolidge* is branching out. Also, hip-hop beefs; 'Short Cut to Nirvana'; the Stars.

>> **18-22**



Judge Strikes Gay-Vows Ban

'No rational purpose' for marriage limits, Calif. ruling says

SAN FRANCISCO | A judge ruled Monday that California's ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional — a legal milestone that, if upheld on appeal, would open the way for the most populous state to follow Massachusetts in allowing same-sex couples to wed.

Judge Richard Kramer of San Francisco County's trial-level Superior Court likened the ban to laws requiring racial segregation in schools, and said there appears to be "no rational purpose" for denying marriage to gay couples.

The ruling came in response to lawsuits filed by the city of San Francisco and a dozen gay couples a year ago after the California Supreme Court halted a four-week same-sex marriage spree started by Mayor Gavin Newsom.

The opinion had been eagerly awaited because of San Francisco's historical role as a gay-rights battleground.

Gay marriage supporters hailed the ruling as a historic development akin to the 1948 state Supreme Court decision that made California the first state to legalize interracial marriage.

Conservative leaders expressed outrage at the ruling and vowed to appeal.

Last winter, nearly 4,000 gay couples got married after Newsom instructed the city to issue them licenses, in defiance of state law. The California Supreme Court later voided those marriages, but did not address the underlying issue of whether the law against gay marriage violates the California Constitution.

Despite Monday's ruling, it could take months or years of legal appeals before the state actually sanctions same-sex marriage, if ever. **LISA LEFF (AP)**

Weather > Mostly Sunny



49 | 32

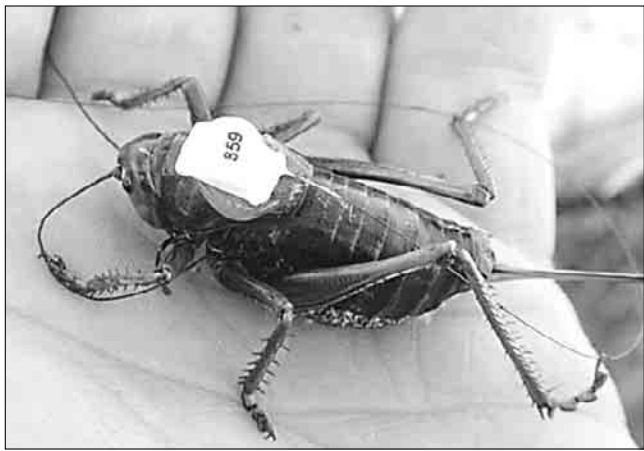
FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 29

SPORTS | Whiff-le Balls Bowling-ball maker Storm Products hopes to change the odors associated with bowling from feet, cigarettes and beer to grape, amaretto and cherry — by scenting the balls. The first "flavors" — green apple and citrus — came out in



2000; the company has since produced about 40 scents. One pro bowler said he won a game when an opponent was distracted by a licorice-scented ball. Most aren't that fragrant, however, and can only be smelled from a few inches away. **(AP) EyeOpeners | Page 2**

eyeOpeners



DARRYL T. GWYNNE/AP

TRACKING

Bugging the Bugs

No, this female Mormon cricket isn't planning on skydiving. It was fitted with a 0.4-gram radio transmitter in Utah, part of a tracking effort being carried out by scientists — armed with glue guns and these penny-sized dohickies — trying to stop mass insect migrations to the west, where the hungry bugs devastate ranches. (AP)

COLLECTION

Fees, If You Please

The Knox County, Tenn., public library system is sending a message to patrons with overdue books and fees by hiring a private collection agency to help track down offenders — nicely. Knox County Library will hand over the accounts of 180 users whose materials are 45 days or more overdue, representing up to about \$15,000 worth of books, DVDs and audio materials, library spokeswoman Mary Pom Claiborne said. The Jeffersonville, Ind.-based com-

pany, Unique Management Services Inc., specializes in library collections, employing a respectful, courteous approach with an emphasis on the magic word please. "It's not Guido the loan shark — we're not going to break your legs over this," Claiborne said. (AP)



NARCOTICS

Today's Science Lesson: Grass

A substitute teacher was arrested March 8 for smoking marijuana with students at a Fresno, Calif., high school, the Fresno Bee reported. Christopher Bochin, 22, a substitute teacher since October, was hired to teach earth science.

He had two students get pot and a smoking pipe out of his car and bring it back to the classroom to share, police said. He then smoked it with six or seven of his students; others opted not to join in. The school learned of the incident when one teacher smelled the burning marijuana, while another confiscated a cell phone that revealed text messages sent by a student who was smoking pot during class. The offending students will be suspended and face counseling, and some may be expelled, officials said. Bochin's lawyer said Bochin will be sent to a drug treatment program. (EXPRESS)

TAXES

No Forms for Cauldron Deductions

The Wiccans can't have a sales tax exemption in Florida, an appeals court said. The state department of revenue had originally turned down a request by the Orlando-based Wiccan Religious Cooperative of Florida for a reli-

gious exemption from the sales tax, saying the witches' group had not met all the qualifications. The cooperative filed suit on Halloween 2000; the federal appeals court upheld the rejection on technical grounds, saying the Wiccans didn't show they had been hurt by the denial of a tax exemption. (AP)



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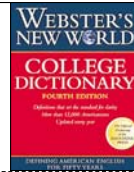
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WEDGED IN: The word "wedgie" will be among the additions to the newest Webster's New World College Dictionary, which will be in bookstores by May, the Akron Beacon Journal reported. The word will be among 58 new entries and 20 new senses of words.



Nation

Jackson's Accuser Cross-Examined

Boy says he told school official Jackson 'didn't do anything to me'

SANTA MARIA, CALIF. | The boy who says Michael Jackson molested him acknowledged under cross-examination that he told an administrator at his school the pop star "didn't do anything to me."

The teenager was asked about conversations he had with Jeffrey Alpert, the dean at John Burroughs Middle School in Los Angeles, where the boy had a history of acting up in class.

"I told Dean Alpert he didn't do anything to me," the boy said under questioning Monday by Jackson attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. "I told him twice."

Prosecutors allege Jackson, 46, plied the boy, a cancer survivor, with alcohol and molested him at his Neverland Ranch in 2003.

The pop star, who was threatened with arrest when he failed to show up in court on time Thursday, arrived on schedule Monday. Unlike last time, when a disheveled Jackson finally arrived in a coat and pajama bottoms, he wore a bright red jacket and black slacks.



A sheriff's deputy searches Michael Jackson at a Santa Maria, Calif., court.

Mesereau, during his cross-examination of the boy, quoted Alpert as telling the youngster: "Look at me, look at me. ... I can't help you unless you tell me the truth — did any of this happen?"

Mesereau confronted the teenager with school records that showed nine teachers had complained about the boy's disruptive behavior, events the boy acknowledged.

Mesereau also elicited testimony to amplify defense contentions the boy developed a grudge against Jackson and exhibited troublesome behavior during his time at Neverland. **LINDA DEUTSCH (AP)**



An artist's rendering of the hearing for Abu Ali in Alexandria, Va., Monday.

Abu Ali Enters Not Guilty Plea

ALEXANDRIA, VA. | A Virginia man accused of joining al Qaeda and plotting to assassinate President Bush wants a doctor to examine scars on his back to corroborate claims that Saudi officials extracted a confession through torture.

The lawyer for Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, 23, filed a motion Monday seeking "immediate access to medical, psychological and forensic experts to examine and evaluate" Abu Ali for evidence of torture.

The motion was filed at Abu Ali's arraignment in federal court, where he pleaded innocent to providing material support to terrorists and other charges.

Abu Ali, a U.S. citizen, is accused of joining al Qaeda while studying in Saudi Arabia. Prosecutors say he discussed numerous terrorist acts with other al Qaeda members, including a plan in which he would either shoot President Bush or kill him with a car bomb. **(AP)**

WISCONSIN | BLAZING BATTLE



HOT SPOT: Flames shoot through the roof of the St. Raphael Cathedral in Madison, Wis., on Monday. The church received a new steeple in November as part of a \$1 million project, the first step in what was expected to be a refurbishment of the building. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

Guidelines Fluctuate on How Long to Work Out

Spending 90 minutes in the gym? Experts say 30 may be enough

WASHINGTON | Sixty to 90 minutes of exercise? Every day? That's what the government now suggests.

Even people working out at the gym say most folks won't consider that, and the experts behind the government's recommendation say 30 minutes a day is enough for most.

The panel of doctors and scientists that developed the recommendations put an emphasis on getting

30 minutes of exercise. But its 25 pages of recommendations were scaled down to three when they were released as part of the government's new dietary guidelines in January. Those guidelines gave equal billing to the 60- and 90-minute suggestions.

"There's an enormous need to clarify that," said Russell Pate, a panel member and professor of exercise science at the University of South Carolina school of public health. "I have no doubt that if we all met that 30-minute guideline, we'd have a lot fewer of us that have weight problems." **LIBBY QU Aid (AP)**

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Nation



FISCAL CONSERVATIVE: Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, offered to sell his beat-up 1986 Olds Delta 88 in Des Moines at a town meeting on Saturday for \$356, one dollar below book value. Grassley said at first he thought it was a joke when someone there accepted the deal.

Ga. Shootout Leaves Painful Wake

Security gaffes at issue; hostage details time with alleged gunman

ATLANTA | The deputy, a 51-year-old woman just 5 feet tall, was simply no match for the inmate she was escorting to the courtroom, a 6-foot-1, 200-pound former college linebacker on trial for rape.

Authorities say Brian Nichols overpowered deputy Cynthia Hall, took her gun, and easily gained access to the courtroom, where he went on to kill the judge and a court reporter. Security cameras captured images of the scene, but no one, it turned out, was watching the screens.

Authorities are investigating how the security breakdowns happened

on that bloody Friday morning. The issue is getting lawmakers' attention as well, with Sen. Arlen Specter, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, saying he would hold congressional hearings on security at courthouses and for judges.

Nichols was taken into custody Saturday morning after allegedly holding a woman hostage for several hours, then freeing her. The woman, Ashley Smith, came forward Sunday to give an account of her ordeal, saying he let her go after they bonded while discussing God, family, pancakes and the manhunt going on outside her apartment.

Over the course of the night, Nichols untied Smith, and some of the fear lessened as they talked. Nichols told Smith he felt like "he was already dead," but Smith urged



GRIEVING: Deputy Sgt. Vincent Owens, center, is comforted during a service for slain courthouse workers at the Fulton County Justice Center in Atlanta on Monday.

him to consider the fact that he was still alive a "miracle."

"I believe God brought him to my door," Smith said Sunday.

After Smith left the apartment and called police, officers soon surrounded her apartment complex and Nichols gave up peacefully.

Choking back tears Sunday, she said she told Nichols that her husband died four years ago and if he hurt her, her little girl wouldn't have a mother or father.



Smith

The two talked about the Bible and looked at photos of her family. When morning came, Smith said, Nichols was "overwhelmed" when she made him pancakes. He told her he "just wanted some normalness to his life," she said.

Hughes to Handle U.S. Image Abroad

WASHINGTON | Declaring the United States "must do better job of engaging the Muslim world," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice introduced former presidential adviser Karen Hughes Monday as the Bush administration's choice for a State Department post designed to change Islamic perceptions about America.

Introducing Hughes, Rice said the United States must do much



If confirmed by the Senate, Hughes will work on diplomacy in the Muslim world.

more to counter the "hateful propaganda" that is so common in the Islamic world.

Also in attendance was Dina Powell, an Egyptian-born former White House aide who is slated to be a top aide to Hughes.

Hughes, who has had a major voice in crafting President Bush's domestic message as an adviser, left the White House in 2002 to move her family back to Texas. (AP)

N.J. Post Office Free of Anthrax

HAMILTON, N.J. | The New Jersey post office that handled anthrax-laced letters reopened Monday morning, nearly 3½ years after the deadly mailings that further heightened the nation's fears in the weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The opening had more the air of a gala than a day at a post office. Officials were on hand with cake, and balloons dotted the building.

The post office was closed on Oct. 18, 2001, after NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, two U.S. senators and the offices of the New York Post received anthrax-laced letters that went through Hamilton.

In all, the anthrax attacks killed four people across the country and sickened 17. (AP)



The post office in Hamilton, N.J., was opened for the first time since 2001.

In Brief

NEW YORK

Clinton 'Glad to Be Home' After Release From Hospital

Former President Clinton left the hospital Monday, four days after undergoing surgery to remove scar tissue and fluid around his left lung. "I'm glad to be home and look forward to getting back to work within the next month or so," Clinton said in a statement issued by his spokesman, Jim Kennedy. Clinton's recovery was proceeding normally, and he has begun walking each day, Kennedy said. He is expected to remain at home for the next four to six weeks. (AP)

LAS VEGAS

SUV Jumps Curb, Killing 4 On Bench Waiting for a Bus

An SUV jumped the curb and plowed into a bench at a municipal bus stop Monday, killing four people and scattering bodies, broken glass and schoolbooks. The driver was jailed on suspicion of driving under the influence, police said. The Ford Explorer skidded along a concrete wall about 10 miles from the Las Vegas Strip and demolished the bench on which the victims were sitting, police said. (AP)

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Today in

The Washington Post

Social Insecurity: A new poll shows public support remains weak for President Bush's proposal to reform Social Security. | *Page A1*

Flag Flap: The eBay sale of a flag recovered from the terror attack on the Pentagon was an emotional blow to some 9/11 families. | *Metro*

Opening Up: It was a kinder, gentler Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia taking questions from scholars Monday. | *A Section*

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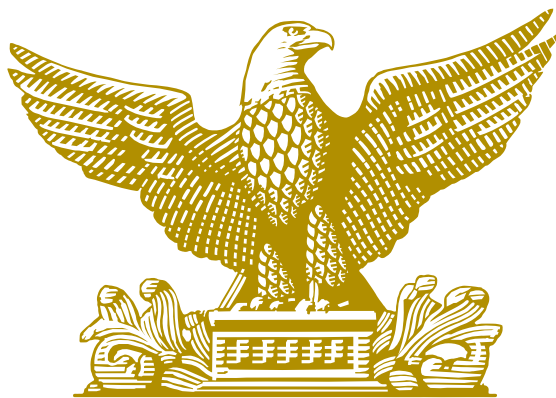
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World

8,000

The number of hours of work accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers said it will donate to help track tsunami aid money, United Nations officials said Monday, as the U.N. aims for greater transparency and accountability.



A SEA OF RED: Opposition protesters wave Lebanese flags as they watch the crowd in Beirut's Martyrs' Square on Monday.

Lebanese Answer the Call

Nearly 1 million turn out for anti-Syria protest

BEIRUT, LEBANON | They came on foot and by bus. They jammed streets and climbed onto rooftops, mosque minarets and fences, thronging Beirut to roar anti-Syrian chants. And they fell silent at 12:55 p.m., the exact time former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated a month ago.

Drawn by emails and cell phone text messages, hundreds of thousands of people from across Lebanon marched in the streets of the capital, waving a sea of white and red Lebanese flags and shouting "Syria out."

The rally, perhaps the biggest anti-government demonstration ever staged in the Arab world and certainly the biggest ever in Lebanon, was the opposition's bid to regain momentum. It came after two serious blows: the reinstatement of the pro-Syrian prime minister and a huge rally last week by the Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah to voice support for Syria.

There were no official estimates of the crowd size, but Lebanon's

leading LBC TV station and some police officers estimated it at about 1 million. An Associated Press estimate put the turnout at least 800,000.

The opposition is demanding the withdrawal of Syrian troops, the ouster of Syrian-allied security chiefs and an international inquiry into the killing of Hariri and 17 others in a bombing many Lebanese blame on Syria and its allies. The opposition has rebuffed calls to join a new government until its demands are met. ZEINA KARAM (AP)



'Real Lebanon': Women with Louis Vuitton backpacks chanted anti-Syrian slogans next to collegians in Che Guevara T-shirts and men in suits | **Today's Post: Section A**

Israel's Plan for Barrier Encircles E. Jerusalem

Palestinians hoped to set up their capital in traditional Arab area

JERUSALEM | The final route of Israel's separation barrier around Jerusalem will encompass large areas claimed by the Palestinians, including their intended capital and the biggest Jewish settlement in the West Bank, Israeli officials confirmed Monday, prompting Palestinian complaints that Israel is drawing its borders unilaterally.

The route would also place a holy site in the Palestinian town of Bethlehem on the Israeli side of the barrier, while leaving a Palestinian refugee camp in Jerusalem encir-

led by a separate fence, the Israeli officials said.

Israel began building the barrier in the West Bank two years ago, saying it was needed to keep out attackers. Palestinians say the structure, which dips into the West Bank, is an attempt by Israel to impose a border without waiting for a peace deal.

The section around Jerusalem is especially sensitive. The Palestinians hope to establish their capital in east Jerusalem, a traditional Arab commercial, religious and social center. Israel, which captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, claims all of the city as its capital.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat that the route could destroy peace efforts. JOSEF FEDERMAN (AP)

Revised Barrier Approved

A revised plan for the Israeli barrier around Jerusalem will encompass some lands claimed by the Palestinians.



Shuafat

Twenty-five acre Palestinian refugee camp will be separated from Jerusalem

Maaleh Adumim

Israeli settlement of 30,000 will be included on Israeli side

Rachel's Tomb

Barrier will divide tomb from the rest of the city, allowing Israeli access to the site

SOURCES: ISRAELI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; U.N. OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

AP

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Proceeds benefit Safe Shores-The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center and Childhelp USA of Virginia

For more information, see the official race Web site at <http://www.stopcsa.org>

ICECAPADE: A British mother of four set out Saturday to become the first woman to reach the North Pole in a solo trek, The Guardian newspaper reported. Ann Daniels, 40, plans to walk more than 600 miles and paddle stretches of ocean.



World

In Brief

FRANCE Asbestos Found Throughout Unpopular Paris Skyscraper

Experts say the 60 floors of Montparnasse Tower, one of Europe's tallest skyscrapers, are full of cancer-causing asbestos. The news was revealed Sunday by Journal du Dimanche. By Monday, it was front-page news in several dailies, reviving memories of the ruckus surrounding the tower's construction. Critics consider it a steel-and-glass eyesore towering above Paris' scrupulously preserved low-rise skyline. (AP)

KYRGYZSTAN Lawmakers Loyal to Akayev Nearly Sweep Runoff Vote

Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev secured an overwhelmingly loyal Parliament in runoff elections that the opposition fears he could use to extend his 15-year rule. Election officials said Monday that opposition candidates had won only four of the 43 seats that were at stake. The opposition said Sunday's vote was riddled with abuses. (AP)

PAKISTAN Top Court Takes Rape Case

Pakistan's Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide the case of six men sentenced to death for raping a



Mai

woman on orders from a village council, following two conflicting rulings by lower courts in the high-profile case. The elders ordered the rape of Mukhtar Mai, 33, as punishment for her brother's alleged affair with a woman from another family. (AP)

NETHERLANDS Kosovo's Ex-PM Pleads Not Guilty at U.N. Tribunal

Kosovo's former prime minister, who resigned last week and surrendered to a United Nations court, pleaded not guilty Monday to war crimes charges at the U.N. tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Ramush Haradinaj, 36, denied all 37 charges for alleged abuses against Serb, Albanian and Gypsy civilians during the 1998-99 war against Serbia. (AP)



Chinese military delegates to the National People's Congress in Beijing applaud after approval of the anti-secession law by a vote of 2,896-0, with two abstentions.

New Law Aims To Tame Taiwan

Chinese vote authorizes force against island

TAIPEI, TAIWAN | China's parliament enacted a law Monday authorizing force to stop rival Taiwan from pursuing formal independence, sparking outrage on the self-governing island and warnings that the measure would fuel regional tensions.

The law does not specify what might trigger an attack and does not add new threats or conditions. Instead, it codifies the measures for authorizing military action.

The National People's Congress passed the law despite U.S. appeals for restraint. It came a day after President Hu Jintao called on China's military to be ready for war and followed a 12.6 percent increase in the country's defense budget for 2005.

The Bush administration said

the new law was an "unfortunate" development. "It does not serve the purpose of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Monday.

Premier Wen Jiabao said the mainland still wants to unite peacefully with the island and does not want to disrupt the status quo. "It is not targeted at the people of Taiwan, nor is it a war bill," he said.

But a Taiwanese government spokesman rejected the measure as a "serious provocation."

Taiwan and China split in 1949. Beijing has threatened repeatedly to attack if it tries to make its de facto independence permanent.

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN (AP)

Saddam Relatives Captured in Tikrit

BAGHDAD | Security forces in Saddam Hussein's hometown captured two of the ousted dictator's relatives, who allegedly were helping insurgents launch attacks in Iraq, the government said Monday.

Its statement said one-time Saddam bodyguard Marwan Taher Abdul Rashid and Abdullah Maher

Abdul Rashid were arrested last Tuesday. State-run Iraqiya television said the two were cousins and Abdullah was a brother-in-law of Saddam's slain son Qusai.

Abdullah was believed to have "used big amounts of money that he received from Qusai ... to finance terrorism in Iraq," and Marwan was involved in attacks on security forces, the statement said.

Neither man was listed on any of the U.S. most-wanted lists. (AP)

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World



RUN-ON SENTENCE: A Queensland, Australia, man who served 18 months in jail for drug charges has gotten three weeks more at his own request — so he could finish computer training and start a chess club, the Australian Associated Press reported last week.

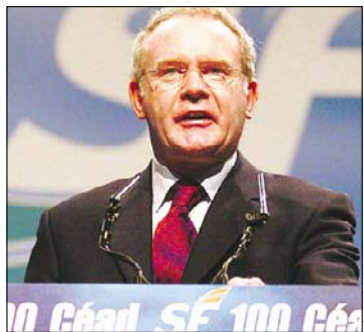
Sinn Fein Airs Frustrations

Official issues warning to sisters pushing for justice in man's death

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND | A Sinn Fein leader publicly criticized the family of a Catholic man killed by IRA members, warning Monday that their relentless campaign for an arrest in his death could diminish support for their cause.

The comments from Sinn Fein's deputy leader, Martin McGuinness, came as the party admitted that another of its candidates was in the pub where Irish Republican Army members launched the fatal assault on Robert McCartney.

A campaign by McCartney's five sisters to have his killers brought to justice has focused attention on the outlawed IRA's continued grip on



McGuinness at the Sinn Fein annual conference in Dublin on March 4.

hard-line Catholic parts of Belfast, where telling police about IRA activities can mean a death sentence.

Catherine McCartney, one of the sisters, on Monday accused Sinn Fein of continually trying to conceal and downplay its members' role in the attack. "I find it hard to believe that we've been campaign-

ing for six weeks and still not a single person has been charged with Robert's murder," she said.

But McGuinness, an alleged IRA commander, said in what were Sinn Fein's first publicly critical comments of the family: "The McCartneys need to be very careful. To step over that line ... into the world of party-political politics can do a huge disservice to their campaign."

He said if they continued to make direct challenges to Sinn Fein, which is the largest Catholic-backed party in Northern Ireland, they would "dismay and disillusion an awful lot of people, tens of thousands of people who support them in their just demands."

The IRA-linked Sinn Fein has already suspended seven members linked to McCartney's death in January, but identified none. (AP)

KASHMIR | BACK TO SCHOOL



INTERREGNUM: Children jostle to be photographed at a school in Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian-held Kashmir, on Monday. Schools in the Himalayan region reopened on Monday after being closed for nearly three months due to harsh winter conditions that have killed several hundred of people.

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Express and United Bank give you the chance to win big in college hoops. Pick the winning team of the men's college basketball championship game on Monday, April 4 and you could win \$250.

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A publication of The Washington Post

Deadline: Entries must be submitted by Wednesday, March 16. Winner will be notified by Wednesday, April 6. Contest rules may be found at readexpress.com/contests

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LONG DISTANCE: McDonald's Corp., the world's largest restaurant chain, said last week it is testing the use of remote call centers to handle drive-thru orders for a small number of restaurants in the Pacific Northwest in an bid to improve service.



Money



A vendor displays boxes of Marlboros and Sampoerna's clove cigarettes in Jakarta. Philip Morris said Monday it offered to buy Sampoerna in a deal worth \$5 billion.

Philip Morris Goes East for Smokers

Bids \$5B to get foothold in Indonesian market

NEW YORK | Philip Morris International has made a \$5 billion offer to acquire Indonesia's third-largest cigarette producer, boosting its market share in a country of heavy smoking as revenues in other parts of the world shrink.

Philip Morris, a division of Altria Group, said Monday it reached agreements to buy PT Hanjaya Mandala Sampoerna from its principal shareholders for a total of \$2 billion in cash and will make a tender offer for the remaining stock at \$1.13 apiece. The overall deal values the Indonesian company at \$5 billion.

With the buyout of Sampoerna, Philip Morris International would become Indonesia's second-largest

cigarette maker with 23.5 percent of the market and increase its global market share by close to 1 point, Altria Chairman Louis C. Camilleri said.

Philip Morris' U.S. and international tobacco businesses make it the largest publicly traded tobacco company in the world. The takeover bid highlights its efforts to expand its presence in foreign markets, where cigarette sales are growing while health concerns whittle away revenues in developed countries like Europe and North America.

Up to 70 percent of Indonesian males smoke, and increasing numbers of women in the country of 220 million people are taking up the habit. CHRISTOPHER WANG (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
RetailVent	9.20	+1.88	+25.7
Genentch s	55.00	+10.92	+24.8
Gotchk	10.08	+1.20	+13.5
Valhi	21.43	+2.53	+13.4
Applica	5.75	+0.46	+8.7

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
AutoZone	85.75	-12.55	-12.8
GoodrPet	19.86	-1.40	-6.6
Quanex s	55.15	-3.77	-6.4
CenEurRus	31.25	-1.92	-5.8
OreStl	24.81	-1.50	-5.7

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Geores	9.20	+2.81	+44.0
Hansen	54.57	+11.31	+26.1
AbleEnr	11.50	+2.28	+24.7
OnyxPh	30.36	+4.98	+19.6
Tll Ntwk	2.08	+0.34	+19.5

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
MncTech	5.90	-3.31	-35.9
AvocTcP	23.90	-10.37	-30.3
AnchrGis	2.83	-1.20	-29.8
VelctyEhrs	4.55	-1.80	-28.3
MonServ	3.15	-0.85	-21.3

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.50	5.50
Fed Funds close	2.56	
3-month	2.74	2.68
2-year	3.73	3.59
10-year	4.51	4.31
30-year	4.78	4.63

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5223	.5194	.5544
Canadian Dollar	1.2059	1.2043	1.3347
European Euro	.7481	.7430	.8179
Japanese Yen	104.93	103.88	110.87
Mexican Peso	11.1610	11.0570	10.9610
Taiwanese Dollar	30.69	30.68	33.36

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+30.15	+9.44	+6.75
+0.28	+0.46	+0.56
10804.51	2051.04	1206.83

Biotech Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
Amgen	60.43	+0.62	-5.8
ApplBio	20.82	+0.54	-4
BiogenIdc	39.41	+1.38	-40.8
Celgene s	33.97	+1.17	+28.1
ChRvLab	47.67	+0.90	+3.6
Chiron	37.34	+0.83	+12.0
Genentch s	55.00	+10.92	+1.0
Genzyme	57.88	+2.28	-3
GileadSci s	35.70	+1.13	+2.0
Imclone	41.32	+1.45	-10.3
Invitrogn	72.67	+1.59	+8.3
LabCp	46.60	+0.52	-6.5
MedImun	24.25	+0.52	-10.5
Monsnto	60.85	-0.04	+9.5
QstDiag	99.69	+0.31	+4.3

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BY THE NUMBERS: California accounts for more than 90% of the nation's garlic production, but it is a shrinking industry. The state's farmers grew \$129.5 million of the herb last year, according to state figures, compared with \$269 million eight years ago. Meanwhile, Chinese imports of garlic totaled 86 million pounds, 10 times their level just three years earlier. (L.A. TIMES)

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<http://www.eleventhstreetlounge.com/>

Local



DOUBLE TROUBLE: Middletown, Va., Police Chief Roger Ashley was ordered held without bail Monday on charges of driving drunk twice in one day. Ashley has been jailed since Saturday, when he was arrested twice in five hours, authorities said.

MS-13 Sting Catches 103 Suspects

WASHINGTON | The government on Monday announced the arrests of 103 alleged members of MS-13, a street gang rooted in Central America where members have been known to behead enemies and attack with grenades and machetes.

The arrests, in seven cities since early January, are the first of

a nationwide crackdown on Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, which is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the United States. Federal officials estimate between 8,000 and 10,000 MS-13 members live in 31 states — the majority of them in the country illegally. There have been machete attacks in U.S.

cities along the East Coast, including Virginia.

Half of the suspects charged in the sting, nicknamed "Operation Community Shield," have prior arrests or convictions for violent crimes, including murder, sodomy, assault and arson. All of them can be deported for violating immigra-

tion laws, said Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia.

"Our goal is simple: Operation Community Shield aims to dismantle the MS-13 criminal gang by removing gang members from the streets and from the community," said Garcia. LARA JAKES JORDAN (AP)

CSX Wins Battle With the District

WASHINGTON | A federal regulatory board ruled Monday that the District of Columbia does not have authority to ban trains carrying hazardous chemicals through the nation's capital, despite the city government's argument that a such trains could

be prime terrorist targets.

The Surface Transportation Board in its ruling stated that the city's police power cannot be used to impose new requirements on rail transportation.

The board's decision does not have the power to invalidate the D.C. law, but it can be used in court as an advisory opinion on the city's legal authority. (AP)

City CEO Clears Two Stadium Plans

WASHINGTON | The city's chief financial officer, Natwar M. Gandhi, has completed his analysis of the eight financing plans for a new baseball stadium. But it looks like only two can definitely clear any legal hurdles.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show that only proposals submitted by Deutsche

Bank and The Gates Group have no legal obstacles. Both put the cost of the project at \$486.2 million, the same as D.C.'s plan. As for the other plans, analysts see problems with land acquisition issues in five of them and one contains a possible risk to investors of trouble with the IRS. (AP)

The Lotteries

Monday, March 14

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	6-9-2 (white)
Evening Lucky Numbers	6-1-9 (white)
Mid-day DC 4	1-1-0-7
Evening DC 4	7-8-2-8
Quick Cash	38-36-7-6-15-16
Hot Five	20-13-28-16-23

MARYLAND	
Mid-day Pick 3	0-2-2
Evening Pick 3	0-3-1
Mid-day Pick 4	8-3-3-6
Evening Pick 4	3-2-6-4
Match 5	2-10-11-14-23 Bonus: 37

VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3	2-3-8
Mid-day Pick 4	8-4-8-7
Mid-day Cash 5	13-15-23-31-32

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.



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VOTE LOBBY: D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams on Monday urged officials from other cities at a National League of Cities meeting to pass local resolutions supporting D.C. voting rights in the House. He stopped short of asking for support for two voting senators.



Local

Mfume Announces Md. Senate Bid

Ex-NAACP president throws his hat in the ring for Sarbanes' seat

BALTIMORE | Kweisi Mfume, a former five-term U.S. congressman who stepped down to become president of the NAACP, launched an 18-month campaign Monday to win Maryland's open U.S. Senate seat.

The 56-year-old Baltimore native and former radio talk show host stood at a podium backed by a half-dozen American flags and declared in a booming voice: "I can't be bought, I won't be intimidated, and I don't know how to quit."



STEVE QUARANTA/AP

Kweisi Mfume announces his bid to become Maryland's first black senator.

Mfume, who hopes to become the first black U.S. senator in Maryland history, has made no secret that his sights were set on

the seat. But he waited for his ally Paul Sarbanes, the five-term incumbent, to decide whether to stay or go. Sarbanes, 72, the longest serving senator in state history, announced Friday he would not seek another term.

Democratic U.S. Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger and Chris Van Hollen said Monday they are appointing exploratory committees to examine their prospects. Reps. Benjamin Cardin and Elijah Cummings have not ruled out bids, although Rep. Al Wynn officially bowed out of the race just two hours after Mfume's news conference Monday.

GRETCHEN PARKER (AP)

Express to Boost Circulation Again

WASHINGTON | Express, the Washington Post Company's free commuter newspaper, plans to increase its daily distribution from 175,000 to 200,000 copies.

The 14 percent boost will be phased in over the next few weeks. It's the third increase announced since Express debuted in August 2003 with 125,000 copies.

The additional copies reflect increased demand for the quick-read paper. Distribution will be expanded at Metro stations, apartment buildings and urban street locations with heavy daytime foot traffic. (EXPRESS)

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RESEARCH INVOLVING SOCIAL INTERACTION

Adult Male volunteers who are comfortable socializing with others are needed to participate in a research study involving social interaction sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health. This research is being conducted at the Maryland Center for Anxiety Disorders, Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, College Park.

Within a single session, individuals will participate in a clinical interview, complete several brief questionnaires, and engage in several social interaction tasks with research team members. Additionally, some volunteers will be asked to participate in an abbreviated follow-up session approximately two weeks after the first session.

Interested males should contact the Maryland Center for Anxiety Disorders at (301) 405-3074. A brief phone interview will be conducted to determine eligibility.

Those who participate will receive financial compensation for each visit



Egg Donor Needed \$7,500 COMPENSATION

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YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU ARE:

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Depressed Again

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To learn more about this study, please call
CAPITAL CLINICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES
301-770-7375



Malaria Vaccine Research Study

PURPOSE: To study the safety and effectiveness of a new investigational Malaria Vaccine.

Volunteers Needed: Healthy Men and Women Aged 18-45 Years Without Previous History Of Malaria Or Receipt Of A Malaria Vaccine.


Health Screening And Financial Compensation Provided.
 Where: Walter Reed Army Institute Of Research in Silver Spring, MD

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or (301) 319-9335/9320
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Please call 301-405-5760 or email smokefree_2004@yahoo.com

This study is sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse

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ASTHMA

Volunteers Needed for NIH Asthma Research Study

The Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine Branch at the National Institutes of Health is looking for individuals with asthma between the ages of 18-65 to participate in a research study. A thorough medical evaluation and monetary compensation will be provided. If interested, please call 301-402-1553.

"Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute"

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XX247

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- In good health
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- Willing to have two endoscopies

All study related procedures are provided at no charge including physical examinations, laboratory services and study medication. Financial compensation may be available to those who qualify. To learn more about this study, please call:

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WANTED

Individuals with chronic bronchitis or bronchiectasis to participate in a 3 day inpatient study looking at the effects of chronic infection on the lung. The tests, including fiberoptic bronchoscopy, will be performed in the Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine Branch at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

If interested, please call 301-496-9077

Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

WANTED: Normal Volunteers

Female, ages 28-40 and male, ages 18-65 to participate in a research study conducted by the Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine Branch, NHLBI. The study involves a clinic visit and a blood sample. Participants will be compensated. Please call 301-496-9077.

'Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Health & Fitness

It's in the Balance

'Core training' forces you to tone that trunk — or fall on your face

FITNESS | On a night a few weeks away from spring break, several dozen young women waited to begin the "Abs and Buns" class at a college fitness center. In T-shirts and sweats, hair in ponytails, they compared notes on the calories they ate that day, the muscles they worked in the weight room, the miles they ran to nowhere on elliptical trainers and treadmills. They wanted bikini-worthy results — fast.

"It's all about calories here," said instructor Elizabeth Edelman. "The classes that burn the most calories tend to be the most popular."

But a growing number of people across the country are recognizing the importance of another type of training — core training. These workouts strengthen muscles in the body's trunk, such as the abdomen, chest and back, and focus not just on calories or body parts worked, but also on balance.

In Edelman's class, called "Bosu Core," participants balance abdomens, shoulders and knees on a rubber dome mounted on a plastic platform, and do crunches, leg lifts and



THE BALTIMORE SUN

BLUNDER DOME: Wobbly domes increase the risk of toppling headfirst to the floor.

other moves. Keeping their bodies stable forces them to work transverse abdominal or "core" muscles. One false move, they tumble off.

"The first step is just gaining your balance," said Colleen Tretola, a student from Cranford, N.J. Balance isn't just for gymnasts prancing on 4-inch-wide balance beams. Football and tennis players, runners, skiers, golfers and other athletes regularly engage in balance training to improve their performance.

"Balance helps keep you better coordinated," said Eddie Hall, trainer at Baltimore Fitness & Tennis in

Pikesville, Md. Balance or stability training can be done with equipment such as the rubber dome, stability balls and wobble boards, or through yoga. Even lifting weights while standing on one leg helps work balance.

"By creating an unstable environment, you're forcing the body to work harder," Hall said. A strong core means a more stable body. "Improving balance can have a direct positive impact on activities we enjoy," said Dr. Cedric Bryant of the American Council on Exercise.

MARIA BLACKBURN (THE BALTIMORE SUN)

Keep It to Yourself

Some doctors forgo blood transfusions as part of surgeries

HEALTH | When Steve and Jane Hewitt couldn't find a surgeon to do their daughter's spine surgery without transfusions — as Jehovah's Witnesses, they believe the Bible prohibits receiving blood — they were directed to a "bloodless medicine" program at a California hospital. After a successful surgery, her spine is close to normal.

Now, some doctors say bloodless surgery may be good practice for everyone. More doctors use the



Even open-heart surgery can be performed without transfusions of blood.

methods in a variety of surgery, often with little or no transfused blood.

About 100 U.S. hospitals now have bloodless programs, hoping to solve problems of supply (fewer people can give blood these days because of potential exposure to diseases such as mad cow); cost (blood banks have hiked prices to \$500 a pint); and health (transfusions carry the risk of blood-borne viruses, bacteria and infection).

Bloodless surgery involves boosting the blood count, then using special methods and equipment to minimize blood loss, including machines that pump lost red cells back into the body. Bloodless surgeons still use blood if the patient's condition or procedure requires it. The goal is to keep transfusions to a minimum.

VALERIE REITMAN (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

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FOOTPRINT: David Beckham is preparing for life after soccer. The English star unveiled plans Monday for The David Beckham Academy, a soccer school that opens this summer next to the Millennium Dome in east London.



Sports

FanFare

COLLEGE HOOPS | BY JONATHAN FUSFIELD

NIT a Chance To Start Over

SO THE MARYLAND TERRAPINS didn't make the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1993. As depressing as that is, it proves how hard it is to make the NCAA tournament each year.

In 2004, the Terps were on the proverbial "bubble" with a 7-9 conference record before going on a run to win the ACC championship. This year, virtually the same team again went 7-9, but couldn't muster a conference tournament run.

Despite their exclusion from the field of 65, the Terps (16-12) still have some work to do.

Maryland will host Oral Roberts Wednesday in the National Invitation Tournament. Another area team, Georgetown (17-12), also accepted an invitation to the NIT and will play Boston University at MCI Center the same night.

Going to the NIT is the right move for both the Terps and the Hoyas. The NIT may not have the same prestige and renown it once had, but it can be used as a springboard to bigger things in the future.

Eleven teams in this year's NCAA tournament played in the NIT last year, including the area's only NCAA representative, George Washington.

Syracuse went to the NIT in 2002, just a year before winning the national championship. North Carolina, NIT-bound in 2003, is a No. 1 seed this year and is favored to win the tournament.

While it's sad to watch a Maryland club with so much proven potential fall to the NIT, it just shows that even the country's top teams can have down years.

Jonathan Musfield is a senior at the University of Maryland, where he studies journalism.

"The NIT may not have the same prestige and renown it once had, but it can be used as a springboard."



ROLLING: Workers lay Bermuda and rye grass on the infield at RFK Stadium Monday, three weeks before the season starts.

Ground Work for Nationals

RFK outfitted with grass as season approaches

NATIONALS | With drills and tractors going, scaffolding overhead and dirt underfoot, RFK Stadium felt very much like any old construction site Monday.

Until 8:12 a.m., that is, as the first 35-foot-long, 44-inch-wide rectangle of Bermuda and rye grass was draped along what will be the third-base line when the Washington Nationals bring major league baseball back to the city in a month.

The Montreal Expos' move to the Washington wasn't completed until

late last year, and work to get RFK Stadium ready for baseball began Jan. 10. But it has been a frigid winter in the nation's capital, and on Monday temperatures were still unseasonably chilly, not expected to reach beyond the 40s.

"It's not going to be an easy task," said Justin Spillman, a turf consultant overseeing the project. "It is attainable, though. On April 3, we'll be fine."

That's when the Nationals host the New York Mets in an exhibition game and dress rehearsal at RFK, the

former home of the Redskins. The first regular-season baseball game in Washington since the Senators left town in 1971 will be April 14, against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

There's plenty to do, from putting up foul poles to replacing advertising signs to building a new home clubhouse nearly from scratch.

Right now, there's also a hole about 18 feet in diameter smack in the center of the infield. That's where the retractable pitcher's mound will go, moved up and down by three motors so it can be hidden for fellow tenant D.C. United's Major League Soccer games. HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)

End of the Gillen Era At Virginia

Basketball coach steps down after another disappointing season

COLLEGE HOOPS | Pete Gillen stepped down as Virginia's basketball coach Monday, ending a seven-year stay marked by bad luck, recruiting mistakes and only one trip to the NCAA tournament.

The university said in a statement that under the terms of Gillen's contract he will receive a buyout of approximately \$2 million.

Athletic director Craig Littlepage said a search for a new coach will begin immediately and is expected to take four to six weeks.

Among the names prominently mentioned already are Texas coach Rick Barnes, who once agreed to leave Providence for the Virginia job but later changed his mind, Kentucky's Tubby Smith and Mike Brey of Notre Dame.

Littlepage has repeatedly said expectations for this season were high and that a \$130 million, 15,000-seat arena due to open in 2006 mandated a turnaround in the men's program. But the team finished just 14-15. LARRY O'DELL (AP)



Gillen

In Brief

STEROIDS

Selig Willing to Testify

Major League Baseball gave a congressional committee about 400 pages of documents on drug testing and said commissioner Bud Selig is willing to testify at Thursday's hearing on steroid use. But just three days before the hearing, it remained unclear whether Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi, Curt Schilling and other stars would testify before the House Governmental Reform Committee. (AP)

COLLEGE HOOPS

Chaney to Coach in NIT

John Chaney will return to coach Temple in the NIT after he was suspended for the final five games of the season after ordering rough play from one of his players, who subsequently broke the arm of St. Joseph's senior John Bryant. (AP)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Gailey Suffers Heart Attack

Georgia Tech football coach Chan Gailey suffered a heart attack Monday while playing racquetball at the campus recreation center. Gailey, who turned 53 in January,

was taken to Piedmont Hospital. He underwent a balloon angioplasty and was resting comfortably, the school said. (AP)

FOOTBALL

Browns Cut Ex-No. 1 Pick

Defensive end Courtney Brown was released Monday by the Cleveland Browns, although the team will continue talks with his agent to reach a new deal. Brown, the first overall choice in the 2000 draft, played five injury-plagued seasons with the Browns and never lived up to expectations. The Redskins are said to be interested in signing Brown. (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

COLLEGEHOOPS (7 P.M. ON ESPN) The NCAA tournament starts with the play-in game between Oakland and Alabama A&M.

COLLEGEHOOPS (7 P.M. ON ESPN2) Left out of the NCAAs, Notre Dame hosts Holy Cross in the NIT first round.

COLLEGEHOOPS (8 P.M. ON ESPN) John Chaney will coach Temple against Virginia Tech in the NIT.

COLLEGEHOOPS (9 P.M. ON ESPN) DePaul visits Missouri in an NIT game.

NBA (8:30 P.M. ON NBA-TV) The Timberwolves visit the Mavericks on their quest to make the playoffs.

March Madness

Cashing In On March Madness

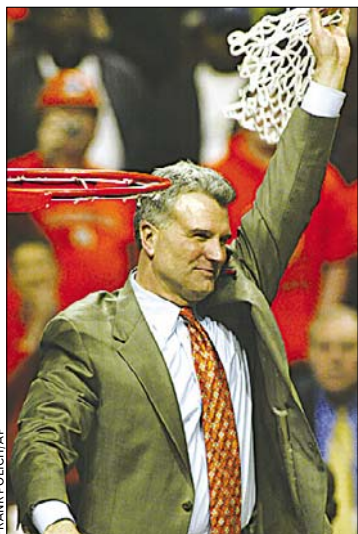
From offices to Vegas, billions spent betting on NCAA tournament

GAMBLING | Hours before the first game of the NCAA tournament tips off Thursday, every seat will be taken in the Mandalay Bay sports book and people will be lining up at the betting windows with fistfuls of cash. Those lucky enough to grab a table won't leave until the night's final game is over — or their bankroll runs out.

Up and down the glittering Las Vegas Strip, the story is the same. But betting on the NCAA tournament is one thing that doesn't stay in Vegas. In dorm rooms, offices, and homes across the country, people can make a few clicks of the mouse and bet up to \$10,000 or so on their favorite team.

One out of every 10 Americans will carefully fill out their brackets, throw \$20 or so in the office or bar pool and hope they can claim bragging rights and make a little money at the same time on what happens between now and April 4.

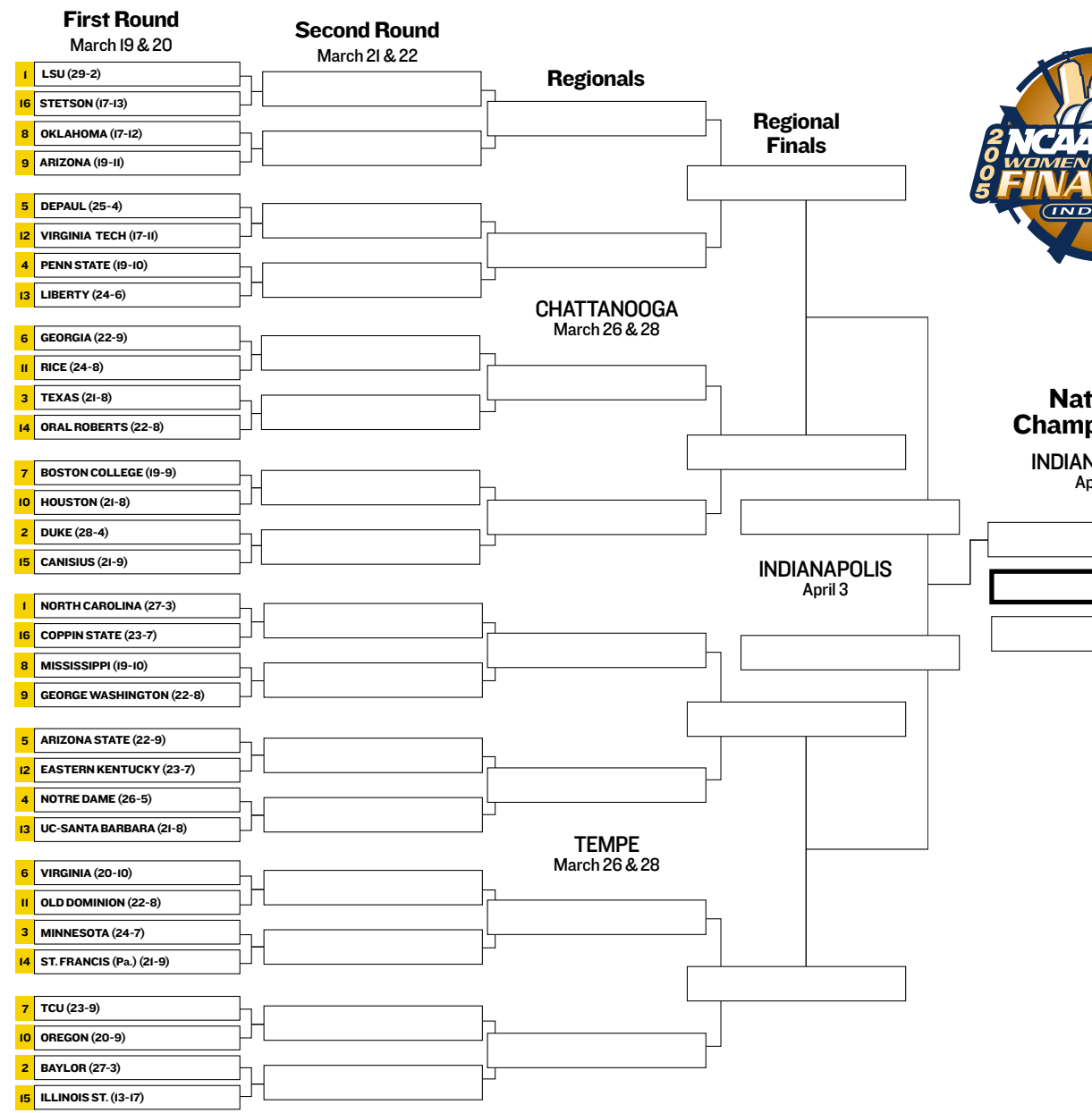
As much as the NCAA hates it, the madness this March extends far beyond the basketball court. Millions will reach into their wal-



Bruce Weber's Illinois squad is one of the favorites to win the NCAA tourney.

lets to back their teams and, for the first time, some say it's possible more money will be bet on this year's tournament than the Super Bowl.

Though figures are hard to come by because much of the money is bet privately, one internet betting site estimated a staggering \$3.5 billion — about the same as the gross national product of Mozambique — will be bet on the 63 games that will crown a college basketball champion. **TIM DAHLBERG (AP)**



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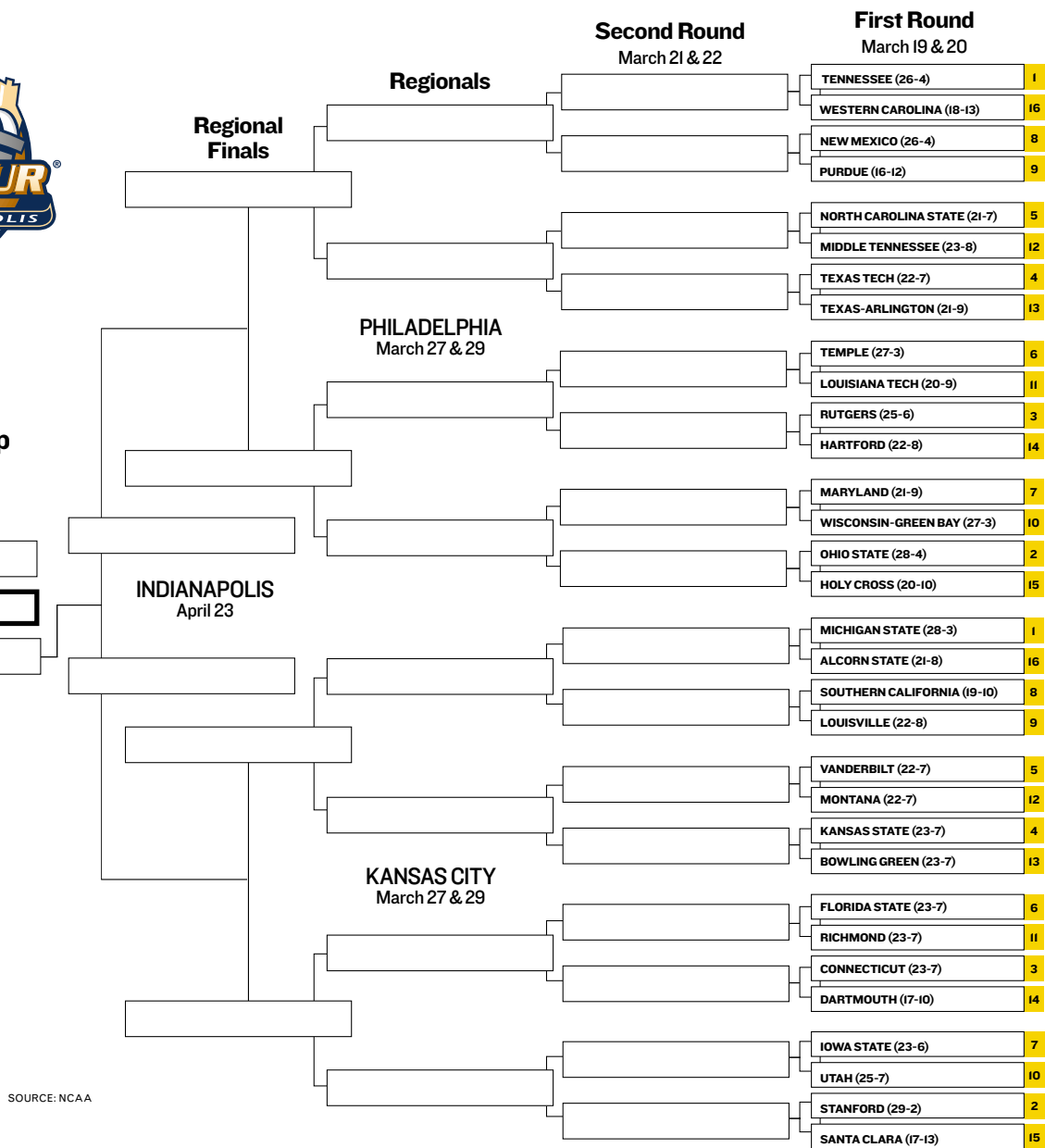
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March Madness



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DINO VOURNAS/AP

JUMP SHOT: The Stanford women celebrate a win in the Pac 10 tournament on March 6, a scene they hope to repeat throughout the NCAA tournament this month.

Stanford Remains No. 1

WOMEN'S HOOPS | At least one group still thinks Stanford should be No. 1.

Stanford stayed atop the final Associated Press women's basketball poll Monday, the first time the Cardinals have finished the season at No. 1.

The final ranking might ease the disappointment of Sunday, when Stanford was made a No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament.

It's the first time the No. 1-ranked team hasn't been a top seed in the tournament since 1984, when it happened to Texas.

Stanford received 29 of 45 first-

place votes from a national media panel and had 1,091 points — 18 more than No. 2 LSU.

Four teams split the remaining first-place votes. LSU received 11, No. 3 Tennessee had one, and fourth-ranked North Carolina and No. 5 Baylor each got two.

LSU, Tennessee, North Carolina and No. 6 Michigan State are the No. 1 seeds in the NCAA tournament.

Michigan State is the lowest ranked No. 1 seed since Texas Tech was sixth in the final poll of the 1997-98 season.

CHUCK SCHOFFNER (AP)

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Entertainment



THEN WHAT'S THE POINT? Federal regulators ruled there was nothing indecent about a steamy segment before ABC's "Monday Night Football" featuring Nicollette Sheridan's bare shoulders. The panel deemed the ad "not graphic or explicit enough to be indecent."

A Matter of Character

Jennifer Coolidge is huge in even the smallest acting parts

FUNNY LADY | Jennifer Coolidge may have dozens of film credits to her name, but her combined screen time in all of those movies put together probably wouldn't outrun one viewing of "Legally Blonde."

So it's a testament to the gifted comedienne and veteran scene-stealer that people remember her so vividly from supporting roles such as Stifler's Mom in the "American Pie" series or her wonderfully vain and twisted roles in the Christopher Guest movies "Best in Show" and "A Mighty Wind."

She is living proof of the adage that there are no small parts — or, if there are, send them her way and she'll make them something great. "I think I have a really good talent for spotting a role that's been overlooked," she said.

Now audiences can see her regularly on the NBC comedy "Joey," in which she gets to live out what must be every actor's dream: Playing



'THEY LOVE YOU': Coolidge said she based her "Joey" role as theatrical agent Bobbie Morganstern on various agents with less than stellar client-relation skills.

the world's worst agent, Bobbie Morganstern.

Coolidge's talents are also on display in a new way in the animated feature "Robots"; she plays Aunt Fanny, a mothering robot with a generous derriere. And even in animated form, Coolidge manages to steal the show.

The actress, a longtime comedienne who trained with the legendary troupe the Groundlings but was passed up for "Saturday Night Live," claims the only reason she got the role on "Joey" was because she didn't have to audition — a process she dreads. "I fall apart, I absolutely lose it," she said. "It seems incredibly unnatural to me."

She semi-jokes that one of the reasons she got the role in "Legally Blonde" was because "no one else wanted to look that hideous."

Still, one of Coolidge's breakout roles was as a sexpot mother in "American Pie." "I'm so glad I had that role," she said, "because I've played so many weirdos, and it really is the least weird role that I've ever had." **JENELLE RILEY** (BACK STAGE WEST)

Today's Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

In the Navy: 'Mister Roberts'

There isn't a piece of theater that better exemplifies "The 1940s and the Arts" than the wartime comedy "Mister Roberts," involving shipboard hijinks — and plenty of genuine emotion — that, for audiences at the time, made the real war feel a little farther away. Perhaps it will do the same for us today.

Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; through April 3, 7:30 p.m., \$25-\$78; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)



Hunter Foster in rehearsal for the poignant comedy "Mister Roberts."

The Stars: Shining Bright

Canada's shimmering musical import makes stately, melodic pop

MUSIC | The Stars come from that unlikely new bastion of rock 'n' roll that is Montreal, Canada. With their third full-length CD, they have also occasionally landed the label of "chamber pop," a vague and mostly useless term for orchestral, spacious pop music — which Dan Bejar of the band Destroyer smartly summed up as meaning "like 'Eleanor Rigby.'"

But anything that wrestles the good name of pop music away from Britney Spears can't be all bad — especially if it helps people get their ears up to the Stars.

On "Set Yourself on Fire" (Arts & Crafts), lush strings, horns and electronics swirl around guitars and the voices of Torquil Campbell and Amy Millan. Their male-female back-and-forth is just one more addition to the swell of melody.

Their lone misstep is the sentence-finishing verses on "The Big Fight." It's a call-and-response

Montreal's Stars use lush arrangements.



style best left to versions of Positive K's "I Got a Man."

But the record is otherwise remarkably consistent — from the devastating lyrics of a couple's last hurrah in the sack on "One More Night" to the shimmering guitar riff on "Reunion." The simple, piano-paced sweetness of the album's last track, "Calendar Girl," would make Brian Wilson smile.

Following the Canadian trail blazed by Broken Social Scene and the Arcade Fire, the Stars are northern lights indeed.

JAKE COYLE (AP)

Media's Watchdogs: Truth, Ethics and Journalism

2 Ombudsmen from three respected media institutions gather to discuss their work — calibrating the ethical demands of journalism in a time when the media is under so much scrutiny — and the challenges they and their outlets face in the future as Jeffrey Dvorkin (NPR), Michael Getler (The Washington Post) and Daniel Okrent (The New York Times) talk about "Ombudsmen and Integrity: Conscience in the Media."

S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 6:30 p.m., \$20, \$15 resident associate members; 202-357-3030. (Smithsonian)

Continued on page 19

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

STONE FUNNY: It's about time someone offered Chris Rock his own TV show. It seems that UPN has been smart enough to



sign the comedian into small-screen glory. The show, "Everybody Hates Chris," will be a coming-of-age story set in 1980s Brooklyn.

Entertainment

Where Are the Beefs?

All over hip-hop, it seems, as big stars make major threats

FEUDS | Beef sells, and no industry capitalizes on personal conflict more effectively than hip-hop.

Beefing is ingrained in hip-hop culture, from rap battles to break-dancing challenges to graffiti artists striving to outdo each other. But as the \$10-billion hip-hop industry continues to grow in stature and in revenue, so do the stakes associated with creating a hit.

In the past few weeks, rapper 50 Cent has shown he's willing to gamble again. The New York native has provoked a variety of beefs with a number of high-profile rappers, most recently with The Game, a member of his own camp, in an attempt to raise his profile and generate interest in his second album "The Massacre."



50 CENT ENEMY NO. 1: The wrath Ja Rule inspired in 50 helped sell records.

When 50 Cent launched his debut album "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" in 2003, he generated a great deal of hype with the song "Wanksta," an attack on rapper Ja Rule, who, at the time, dominated hip-hop.

"Beef has always been the engine

of creativity in hip-hop," said Jeff Chang, author of the hip-hop history "Can't Stop, Won't Stop." "But now beef affects the competition. Now it's a high-stakes spectacle."

It's also seen as a dangerous one. Though 50 Cent's recent targets — rappers Fat Joe, Jadakiss and Nas — have said they plan to keep the beef within the boundaries of music, some of 50 Cent's appearances around New York have been canceled due to security issues.

Some worry that 50 may launch a hip-hop war like the one that resulted in the deaths of the culture's two biggest heroes, Tupac Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G.

"All through hip-hop history, there have been beefs that have gotten to the crisis point," Chang said. "The difference is that now, some rappers' egos have gone wild. Money has distorted the power [that] communities had to keep them in check."

GLENN GAMBOA (NEWSDAY)



WHO ARE THESE MASKED MEN? The rockers pursue a disturbing anonymity.

Face to Faces With Slipknot

Q&A | The members of Slipknot are known for wearing creepy masks and matching jumpsuits, but don't think it's all a gimmick. The hard-rockers insist they're artists. Joey Jordison (No. 1), Chris Fehn (No. 3) and Taylor (No. 8) discussed Slipknot's latest album, "Vol. 3: (The Subliminal Verses)," with a large dose of sardonic humor.

Where did you get the concept?

TAYLOR: Just looking at not only what was going ... at an international level and just kind of being disgusted. It occurred to us that if we remove ourselves from the equation and just presented a unified front, it would have a greater impact, a more artistic impact.

And what is the music?

JORDISON: Dark, very dark, but at the same time very moving and beautiful in its own way.

FEHN: I think this band is made up

of a mental sickness. When I joined the band ... they'd be looking online at murder photos, death and bondage photos.

TAYLOR: We had issues.

What kind of issues?

TAYLOR: You don't have enough time, or tape. Just being in this band and seeing the way people interpret us is enough to frustrate even the most ardent artist.

How is that?

TAYLOR: I think we're interpreted as a novelty, and that really bothers me because there is so much substance in this band. People get stuck on the aesthetic.

So what do those masks smell like?

TAYLOR: You want to take a huff?

For the record, it smelled moldy and stale, like someone's basement.

COLLEEN LONG (AP)

Today's Top Stops

Continued from page 17

Nothing's Certain: 'Ten Unknowns'

3 Jon Robin Baitz's play "Ten Unknowns" opens tonight at the Signature Theatre. It's the story of a little-known artist living in anonymity in Mexico who's suddenly thrust into the limelight by a new generation of hipoisie.

Signature Theatre, 3806 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington; through April 24, tonight's performance 7:30 p.m., \$25-\$39; 703-218-6500.

Bard the Obscure: 'King John'

4 "Bard-37: Our Canon Cabaret," full-length readings of Shakespeare's plays in order, marches on at Clark Street Playhouse with a reading of the little-produced "King John."

Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Arlington; 7:30 p.m., \$5; 703-418-4808.

Irish Feet: Culkin School

5 The Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance, which seeks to preserve the percussive Irish arts while it entertains and instructs, steps out for a



Students at the Culkin School perform an Irish-style Potomac River-dance.

pre-St. Paddy's Day stompfest of Emerald Isle music and dance.

Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage, 2700 F St. NW; 6 p.m., free; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)

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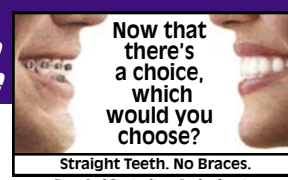
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Entertainment



HEAD ROLE: Director Sofia Coppola has begun filming her sumptuous biopic of Marie-Antionette, based on the Antonia Fraser biography, inside Versailles itself. Kirsten Dunst plays the Austrian beauty and Coppola cousin Jason Schwartzman is Louis XVI.

Peace, Prayer & Web Access

A film documents the largest religious gathering in the world

FILM | In 2001, filmmaker Maurizio Benazzo traveled with his partner, Nick Day, to Prayag, India, to document the largest spiritual gathering in the world in the film "Short Cut to Nirvana: Kumbh Mela." Celebrated at three other sites over 12 years, the Kumbh Mela reaches its climax in Prayag, where tens of millions gather at the place where the Ganges, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers con-

verge. Though the festival is ancient, these days pilgrims are greeted by flashing facades and the occasional Internet-access shack.

Was it a difficult shoot?

It was very hard. Compared to Manhattan, we were staying in the Bronx and everything happened downtown. And there was smoke, there was praying, people teaching and the sounds. It was very draining. You go into sort of a trance, an induced trance [with] the fatigue, the heat, the cold, this crowd and the noise. It was an

amazing experience.

How did you orient yourself?

The Mela ground is about seven miles by two miles. To [orient] yourself you have some points: First of all the water. When you hit the water you know you can't go any further, unless you cross the bridge.

How did you get distribution?

The movie is completely self-distributed, [and] was self-financed. We

Avadhoot Baba swings on a throne of nails over a flaming pit for world peace.



NICK DAY

only have one sponsor which is [our] Visa [cards]. A movie like this — it's a work from the heart ... and the only way to have it work is to inform the right people: The yoga center has to know, the Buddhist center has to know, the new-age groups. We always asked the gurus, whenever we interviewed them, to bless the film and to bless the audience that will one day see the film.

What surprised you the most about your experience?

What surprised us is how much the audience would love this movie, and we are impressed by that. It's such a blessing that people are so enthusiastic. MICHAEL KANIN

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 THE PASSION RECUT (NR-NOT RATED) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
 HOSTAGE (R) 1:00, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, 6:05, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00
 ROBOTS (PG) 1:00, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, 6:05, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00
 BE COOL (PG13) 1:30, 2:35, 4:30, 5:35, 7:30, 8:30, 10:30
 BE COOL (PG13) 2:35, 5:35, 8:30
 THE JACKET (R) 8:05, 10:30
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 2:45, 3:45, 5:45, 6:45, 8:45, 9:45
 CURSED (PG13) 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 2:15, 3:15, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15
 MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG13) 3:00, 9:00
 BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG) 1:05, 3:55
 CONSTANTINE (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30
 HITCH (PG13) 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30
 POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE (G) 1:20
 MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG13) 2:10, 5:10, 8:10
 ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) 1:35, 4:05
 HOTEL RWANDA (PG13) 3:20, 6:20, 9:20
 THE AVIATOR (PG13) 6:45, 10:25
 SIDEWAYS (R) 2:40, 6:35, 9:35

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 HOSTAGE (R) 1:00, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10
 THE PASSION RECUT (NR-NOT RATED) 12:55, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
 ROBOTS (PG) 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 5:25, 6:20, 7:20, 8:00, 8:35, 9:35
 BE COOL (PG13) 1:10, 2:00, 3:45, 5:30, 6:40, 8:10, 9:20
 THE JACKET (R) 2:20, 5:15, 7:35, 10:00
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 12:40, 1:45, 3:10, 4:10, 5:35, 6:30, 7:50, 8:50, 9:55
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 1:45, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
 CURSED (PG13) 2:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 1:25, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
 MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG13) 5:30, 7:50, 10:05
 BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG) 12:45, 3:05
 CONSTANTINE (R) 1:40, 5:40, 8:20
 HITCH (PG13) 1:15, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15
 POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE (G) 1:15, 3:15
 MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG13) 1:35, 5:20, 8:15
 ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) 12:50, 3:05
 THE AVIATOR (PG13) 5:00, 8:30
 SIDEWAYS (R) 5:15, 7:55

COLUMBIA MALL 14
 HOSTAGE (R) 12:55, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
 THE PASSION RECUT (NR-NOT RATED) 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:10
 ROBOTS (PG) 12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:15, 5:20, 7:00, 9:30, 10:30
 BE COOL (PG13) 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15
 THE JACKET (R) 5:20, 8:10, 10:50
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
 CURSED (PG13) 4:40, 7:15, 9:35
 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 1:40, 4:35, 7:20, 10:15
 MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG13) 12:35, 3:00, 5:25
 BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG) 12:05, 2:45
 CONSTANTINE (R) 12:00, 4:55, 8:05, 10:50
 HITCH (PG13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40
 POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE (G) 12:10, 2:50
 MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG13) 1:20, 4:25, 7:25, 10:30
 MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG13) 1:20, 4:25, 7:25, 10:30
 ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) 2:10
 HOTEL RWANDA (PG13) 7:55, 10:45
 SIDEWAYS (R) 1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

MAZZA GALLERIE
 Jenifer and Wisconsin 202-537-9553
 HOSTAGE (R) 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
 THE PASSION RECUT (NR-NOT RATED) 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:05
 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 2:45, 5:30, 8:00
 MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG13) 6:30, 9:00
 CONSTANTINE (R) 2:30, 5:15, 7:50
 POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE (G) 2:35, 4:30
 ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) 3:00, 5:25, 7:45, 9:50
 SIDEWAYS (R) 2:00, 4:50, 7:35

COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
 Courthouse and Birch Rd. 703-998-4AMC
 HOSTAGE (R) 4:35, 7:15, 9:35
 THE PASSION RECUT (NR-NOT RATED) 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
 ROBOTS (PG) 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:05
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 5:00, 7:40, 9:45
 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
 MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG13) 4:05, 7:05, 9:50
 SIDEWAYS (R) 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

COUNTRY CLUB MALL 6
 Country Club Mall on Voeks Rd near Route 68. 703-998-4AMC
 THE PASSION RECUT (NR-NOT RATED) 5:10, 7:55
 ROBOTS (PG) 5:40, 8:15
 BE COOL (PG13) 5:25, 8:05
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 5:40, 8:15
 POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE (G) 5:25
 CONSTANTINE (R) 8:05
 HITCH (PG13) 5:10, 7:55
 HITCH (PG13) 5:10, 7:55

UNION STATION 9
 Located at Union Station 703-998-4AMC
 HOSTAGE (R) 2:30, 5:30, 8:30
 ROBOTS (PG) 2:00, 5:00, 7:30
 BE COOL (PG13) 2:15, 5:15, 8:15
 THE JACKET (R) 5:15
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 1:45, 4:45, 7:30
 CURSED (PG13) 2:15, 8:15
 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 1:50, 2:30, 4:30, 5:30, 8:30
 CONSTANTINE (R) 1:45, 4:45, 8:00
 HITCH (PG13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:45
 HITCH (PG13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:45

ACADEMY 8
 Beltway Plaza on Greenbelt Rd., Center Court 703-998-4AMC
 HOSTAGE (R) 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
 ROBOTS (PG) 5:20, 7:40, 9:50
 BE COOL (PG13) 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 5:30, 8:00, 10:20
 CURSED (PG13) 8:00, 10:00
 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:20
 MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG13) 5:30
 CONSTANTINE (R) 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
 HITCH (PG13) 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

RIVERTOWNE 12
 Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd. 703-998-4AMC
 HOSTAGE (R) 5:30, 8:00
 THE PASSION RECUT (NR-NOT RATED) 5:30, 8:10
 ROBOTS (PG) 5:20, 6:00, 7:40, 8:20
 BE COOL (PG13) 5:20, 8:00
 THE JACKET (R) 5:10
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 5:10, 7:40
 CURSED (PG13) 8:10
 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 5:00, 5:40, 7:50
 MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG13) 5:50
 CONSTANTINE (R) 7:30
 HITCH (PG13) 5:40, 8:20
 ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) 5:50
 HOTEL RWANDA (PG13) 8:30

SPRINGFIELD MALL 10
 Loisdale and Franconia Road 703-971-3991
 HOSTAGE (R) 5:10, 8:30
 THE PASSION RECUT (NR-NOT RATED) 1:30, 4:30, 8:00
 ROBOTS (PG) 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45
 BE COOL (PG13) 1:45, 4:45, 8:30
 THE JACKET (R) 5:20
 THE PACIFIER (PG) 2:15, 5:00, 8:15
 CURSED (PG13) 8:45
 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 4:40, 7:45
 MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG13) 4:50
 CONSTANTINE (R) 8:00
 CONSTANTINE (R) 8:00
 HITCH (PG13) 5:00, 8:15
 MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG13) 4:30, 7:30

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Politics

Member of Virginia's legislature deals with bills attacking his life

Virginia lawmaker Adam Ebbin is fighting to have his voice heard — no small feat, considering he is the state's first openly gay legislator during what some consider the most anti-gay legislative session in the state's history.

"People say, 'Isn't it discouraging?' ... and I disagree totally," said Ebbin, a Democrat from Alexandria. "I know that any time that people are gonna tell lies about gays and lesbians on the House floor, that I can grab my mike and speak — and that's really empowering."

Ebbin is a rare openly gay legislator in the South and part of a small group of lawmakers who are public homosexuals — out of roughly 7,400 state legislators nationwide, 54 are openly gay, according to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. As same-sex marriage and adoption by gays is

debated in legislatures nationwide, these lawmakers confront bills that personally affect their lives.

Openly gay lawmakers such as Ebbin can put a face on their cause. "He brings a real voice and face for our community to the General Assembly, and that is invaluable," said Dyana Mason of Equality

Gays in the Government

"I know that any time that people are gonna tell lies about gays and lesbians on the House floor, that I can grab my mike and speak — and that's really empowering."

ADAM EBBIN, VIRGINIA'S FIRST OPENLY GAY LAWMAKER

Virginia. "I believe it does change the debate for some people."

The 2005 session, which ended Feb. 27, gave Ebbin plenty to speak out about. The House of Delegates passed bills to make it difficult for same-sex couples to adopt children

(later rejected by the Senate) and authorize license plates celebrating "Traditional Marriage" (which was eventually withdrawn). The House and Senate also passed a bill that would write a ban on gay marriage into the state Constitution.

Just before that constitutional amendment was approved, Ebbin made a passionate speech, likening the action to slavery, the forced migration of American Indians, lynchings and Virginia's past efforts to thwart school desegregation.

"Today is one of those moments for which we shall one day be ashamed," Ebbin told his colleagues. "I cannot stand by as this body continues to use gays and lesbians as scapegoats."

Ebbin likes to recite a quote from the Jefferson Memorial in Washington: "Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed ... institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times."

Ebbin said he takes comfort in those words: "If you were a slave when you read that quote, it speaks to you. If you're a woman denied the right to vote, it speaks to you. And I think gays and lesbians can see that it speaks to them." KRISTEN

GELINEAU (AP)



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Television

Hometown 'Idol'

TRAVIS TUCKER, of Manassas, Va., was online Monday to discuss his experiences making it to the semifinals of "American Idol" | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

The big "Idol" news is that Mario Vazquez withdrew due to personal reasons. They put Nikko Smith back in the competition lineup. What do you think about all this?

I haven't talked to Mario but I'm sure whatever it is, he's got a good reason for it and I just wish him the best. Mario is a great performer and he knows what he wants, so I just hope he's going out and getting it. And I wish Nikko the best. I'm glad he got a second opportunity.

Do you think Simon's comments about you being more of a dancer than a singer were fair?

I don't pretend to be one of his favorites. I probably should've put more emphasis on the vocals and so I understand where he's coming from, but I like to think that I can sing better than I can dance.

What was it like going from Manassas to national TV? Did you like being in the spotlight? Was it easy? Were you nervous?

I was definitely nervous. I wouldn't say it was easy. It's definitely new to be recog-

nized by strangers. I like the spotlight. Obviously, that's why you do something like this. At the same time, it's nice to come back and slip into being a normal kid again.

How old are you? And do you have a significant other?

(Laughs) I'm 21 and very single.

At dress rehearsals for the live show, do the judges offer advice to contestants beyond what we see? Is the atmosphere among contestants cut-throat competitive?

The judges aren't there for the dress rehearsal so their comments are fresh. And everyone actually gets along very well. There's no animosity at all.

Do contestants find out how many votes they actually got each week?

I wish. All we know is who's in the bottom two.

→ **Today on Live Online**

NOON: Washingtonpost.com movies editor and DVD columnist Jen Chaney discusses "The Incredibles" and other DVD releases.

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



Letters

Wrong on Philippine Cuisine

THE WRITER OF Monday's letter ("Rabbits Are Friends, Not Food") may find the thought of rabbits as food appalling, but what I find even more appalling is the gross general-

ization and misrepresentation she makes of Filipinos and our cuisine. It should be noted that the practice of consuming dog meat has been banned in the Philippines. While dog meat consumption may occur in some areas, it is by no means a mainstream practice.

—JASON PERALTA
Woodstock, Md.

Rabbits Are Fair Game

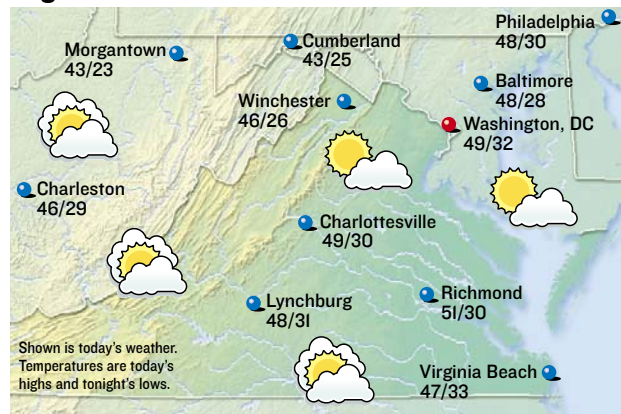
TO MONDAY'S letter-writer: I come from a long line of Southerners, and eating rabbit, possum and other animals is nothing new. All animals are intelligent and feel pain and fear, not just rabbits — and I sure am glad they're here to nourish me.

—ALICE SPURGEON
Gaithersburg, Md.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly sunny	Partly cloudy	Variably cloudy	Partly sunny	Rather cloudy, chilly	Mostly cloudy, p.m. rain possible
49°	32°	49° / 32°	46° / 32°	42° / 32°	46° / 34°

Regional Weather



Almanac

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Temperature
 High 45°
 Low 33°
 Normal high 55°
 Normal low 37°
 Average humidity 35%

Precipitation

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 Month to date 0.68"
 Normal month to date 1.64"
 Year to date 5.62"
 Last year to date 4.89"
 Normal year to date 7.48"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

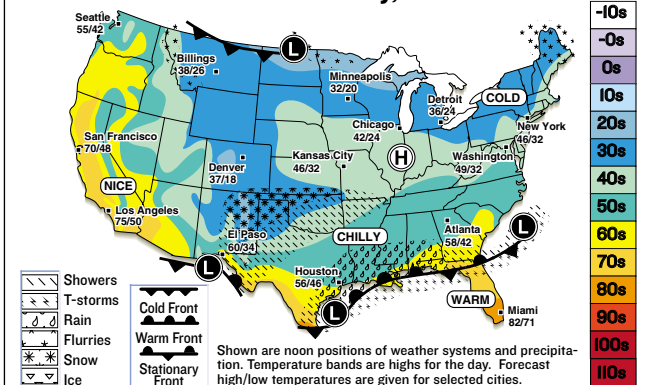
D.C. Metro: Today, mostly sunny, breezy. High 49. Wind northwest 10-18 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 32. Wind northwest 5-10 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 6:20 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 6:15 p.m.
 Moonrise today 9:04 a.m.
 Moonset today none



National Weather for Tuesday, March 15



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	58/42/r	47/36/r
Boston	43/29/pc	43/27/pc
Chicago	42/24/pc	44/31/pc
Dallas	50/39/r	49/38/r
Denver	37/18/pc	49/27/pc
Honolulu	78/64/sh	78/64/pc
Los Angeles	75/50/s	73/52/s
Miami	82/71/pc	84/70/pc
New York City	46/32/s	46/32/pc
Orlando	80/66/t	84/64/t
Seattle	55/42/pc	52/34/sh

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	47/46/r	52/52/c
Athens	64/52/s	61/51/pc
Berlin	40/35/r	54/43/sh
Buenos Aires	84/64/s	87/70/s
Calgary	38/22/sn	22/4/sn
Dublin	54/50/r	57/48/r
Geneva	55/41/pc	61/40/s
Moscow	28/10/sn	20/8/c
Rome	61/43/s	65/46/s
Sydney	87/67/s	80/61/t
Tokyo	50/39/pc	58/49/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2005

LOOK out

People

EXORBITANT Clothing Promoted by Bono That Only Bono Can Afford

BONO has a new gig: exciting interest in the new fashion brand Edun, created by his wife, Ali Hewson, and the designer Rogan. The goal: to produce desirable and wearable clothing while providing sustainable employment and stable commercial relationships in developing areas of the world. Each pair of jeans is inscribed with the words, "We carry the story of the people who make our clothes around with us." Bono helps choose where the clothes will be made to make best use of local resources in developing areas while maintaining high standards for labor practices. Pieces retail for \$45 to \$300 at Saks Fifth Avenue. (AP)



OXYGEN NETWORK

HUNKS

The Fab One

"Mr. Romance," a new reality series starring the one and only **FABIO**, debuted Monday on the Oxygen cable channel. "We took about 12 guys from the United States and different cities and we groomed them how to be perfect gentlemen," Fabio explained. The top prize is \$100,000 and the opportunity to model for a Harlequin romance book cover. (AP)



BIBBETO MATTHEWS/AP

Social consciousness is gonna cost you. \$85 for a camisole, to be specific.

FITNESS Hips of Steel

JANE FONDA plans to undergo hip-replacement operation in May or June, publicist Pat Kingsley con-

firmed last week. Fonda also had outpatient arthroscopic surgery on her left knee, E! Online reported. She'll recover at home for a few weeks, then promote "Monster-in-

Law," her first film in 15 years (also starring Jennifer Lopez). Fonda's memoir, "My Life So Far," will be released in April by Random House. (AP)

FAILURE Deborah Norville's Fans Giggle Vindictively

"The **JANE PAULEY** Show" won't make it to a second season. NBC Universal Television announced it was canceling the talk show shortly after getting ratings for the February sweeps. The former "Today" host seemed like a sure thing after 148 of the nation's top 150 markets agreed to air her show before it even started. Pauley noted that her audience has grown steadily since November "but it came far too late for too many [stations] to stick with us." (AP)



BIBBETO MATTHEWS/AP
"As long as they don't give Anne Curry her own talk show, I can live with this."

WHAT HE HEARS Blah Blah Blah, Quentin

QUENTIN TARANTINO was named film icon of the decade at the Empire Awards on Sunday. More than 12,000 readers of Empire magazine voted for the awards. "The fact that England has embraced me as one of

its own is really cool," said Tarantino. "I hope to give you at least 15 more years of movies," he said. "My plan is to have a theater by that time in some small town and I will be the manager I've made enough money that nobody even needs to show up at the theater." (AP)

HABITS Jodie Stalkers Take Careful Note

JODIE FOSTER was a surprise guest at Sunday's premiere of "Ice Princess" in Los Angeles. The Oscar winner graciously, cheerfully and unusually walked the arrivals line and spoke with the media. While Foster has been spotted at such family film affairs in the past — usually with sons Kit, 3, and Charles, 6 — it's rare to see her spend time on the red carpet. "[Family films] are the only ones I go to, actually," she said. "Otherwise it kind of feels like work." (AP)



Jodie's super-sensitive ears can detect a journalist at 500 feet.

CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

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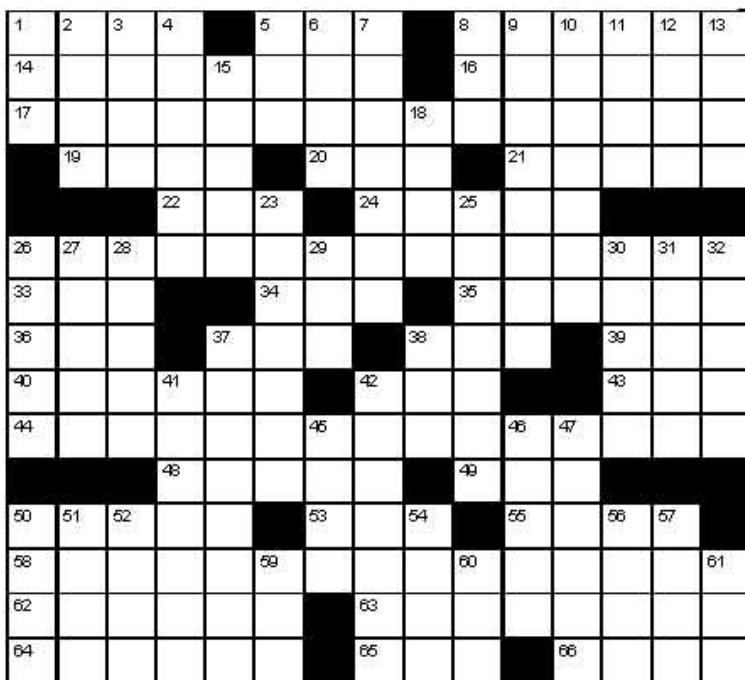
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44 B.C.

On March 15, Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles; also, in 1493, Christopher Columbus returned to Spain, concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

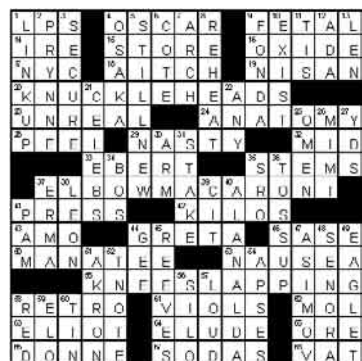
Book Marks | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS**
- 1 Does a send-up
 - 5 A way to get it down
 - 8 Honey follower?
 - 14 Act as a witness
 - 16 Moliere's trickster
 - 17 "The Maltese Falcon" novelist
 - 19 "Star Wars" heroine
 - 20 Parliamentary vote
 - 21 They may be deserted
 - 22 Alphabet sequence
 - 24 Biblical verb
 - 26 Big advantages in sports
 - 33 William Tell's canton
 - 34 Legal thing
 - 35 A load of gossip
 - 36 Neutral, to a decorator
 - 37 Next in line at 22-Across
 - 38 "Barbara ___" (Beach Boys tune)
 - 39 What candles sometimes reveal
 - 40 Place of perfection
 - 42 Word with Glory
 - 43 Piece of advice
 - 44 Social Security check, e.g.
 - 48 Notorious Barrow
 - 49 Word with dog or legs
 - 50 It may seal the deal
- DOWN**
- 1 Supplement
 - 2 Sound from a chapel tower, perhaps
 - 3 To be, to Caesar
 - 4 Division in a church
 - 5 Symbol of easiness
 - 6 With dexterity
 - 7 Intelligently planned progress
 - 8 "This ___ recording"
 - 9 Hudson, on TV
 - 10 It spins its wheels
 - 11 Car manufacturer Fritz von
 - 12 Wee arachnid creatures
 - 13 Tall Tolkien
 - 15 Gauchó's rope
 - 18 1944 Nobelist Otto
 - 23 Still in rehearsals
 - 25 Matters to be voted upon
 - 26 Prankster



- 27 Emulate a valedictorian
- 28 Type of league
- 29 Gidget
- 30 "___ worse than death"
- 31 Prepared to make a defensive stand
- 32 Wasn't vigilant
- 37 Feature of many R-rated films
- 38 Swiss sight
- 41 Make a selection
- 42 Eyelike spot, as on peacock
- 45 It comes to mind
- 46 Pound sounds
- 47 Zedong
- 51 Vagrant
- 52 "Betsy's Wedding" actor
- 54 Game of chance
- 56 Correct
- 57 Lifeline reader
- 59 Geologist's suffix
- 60 Crossbreed
- 61 Bygone Reagan program, briefly

Yesterday's Solution



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Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Romance is in the picture, but you may be surprised at your own reactions to the offers you will receive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You know how to get what you want, and you know that you can do it if you apply yourself. Take that first big step.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your career potential is increasing. You will want to pay particular attention to what goes on around you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You may be trying to pull the wool over the eyes of someone who knows you better than you think. When in doubt, revert immediately to the truth.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Stay in touch with that voice in the back of your head, which tells you what to do when your conscious thoughts are in a jumble.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You don't want others to spot your weaknesses. Take care that the impression you do give, however, is not one of unnecessary arrogance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your social life can yield some surprising rewards. See if you can't increase your holdings by accepting a few unusual invitations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You're feeling a new sense of power, particularly when it

comes to telling it like it is. However, know when to hold your tongue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Move forward with renewed enthusiasm and vigor — and for reasons that are all your own, and sacred to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You're concerned with stability. You'll discover one or two reasons to continue according to plan.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may feel as though others are crowding in on you, and indeed there is little room for you to maneuver as you would like.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You are more aware of your standing in the community and among your professional peers. Personal responsibility is on the rise.

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THIS YEAR I GIVE THANKS FOR MY LIFE!

R. Donald Tomasik

I wanted to write and let you know that I am eternally grateful to you for saving my life! I saw an ad for mobile ultra-sound tests for a year before actually signing up to be tested. I just had a feeling that something wasn't right; my wife kept urging me to spend the \$179 and get checked for nothing else but the peace of mind.

Boy, am I glad I did, it was found that I had a 5 1/2 centimeter aortic aneurysm. I was able to take my test results to my primary care physician and be referred to a specialist, Doctor Showalter, who's first question was 'how do you know you have an aneurysm?' I showed him my Healthfair test results and he smiled and said, 'those Healthfair screenings probably saved your life!'

That was in February 2003 and after a successful surgery, I'm happy to say I'm in good health in 2004 and indebted to Healthfair USA for saving my life! Unfortunately our friend Connie in Vermont didn't have an opportunity to have these inexpensive tests and died of a ruptured aneurysm. We miss her and hope to see Healthfair mobile units all over the country someday. It really is necessary to have these tests since Medicare won't pay for preventative screenings and I couldn't afford to pay the hospital price! Thanks from both Marge and I for your 7 test package, it was truly an investment in my health!



THE RISING COST OF HEALTH CARE

I am a physician here in Charleston, SC; a very skeptical one at that. I have been seeing

your ads in the newspaper of your cardiac and vascular screenings, and have to say I was the first to shout "scam artist". I started getting patients showing me this ad and asking my opinion. Instead of answering them with my first thought, I decided to check into your organization myself and do some research. With the cost of healthcare these days I was very concerned of the legitimacy of your organization. The first thing I decided to do was make an appointment for myself and see it from the inside. I also needed the help of others to compose an even stronger report of findings. I then gathered 11 other family members and colleagues to do your studies. I scheduled various appointments for all of us throughout the month of June. I gave everyone an appointment time and asked them to report back to me of their experience and results. So for 12 of us it was off to the testing sites inside of a bus in various parking lots.

My findings were very impressive! I think your organization is an astounding service to the public! It is so nice to see people like you make this service available to the public. I commend you in this service of screenings you offer at this price, it seems impossible to do this in today's society of medical expenses. The rising cost of healthcare today makes plenty suffer and the conformities of today's managed care makes us all susceptible to the realities of our scope of care. I am now your best supporter and I will happily refer you to all of my patients, and commend you accordingly in the community!

ULTRASOUND TEST OF THE HEART & ARTERIES

AREA DATES AND LOCATIONS:

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EDGEWATER April 2 & 9 Slim and Tone 143 Mitchells Chance Road	FAIRFAX April 28 Sunrise at George Mason 4300 George Mason Road	SPRINGFIELD March 17 and April 6 Sunrise Assisted Living 6541 Franconia Road	ARLINGTON April 8 Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge 1900 N Ft. Myer Drive	FALLS CHURCH April 4 Sunrise at Falls Church 330 N Washington Street

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ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (EKG) TEST		EKG may detect ischemia, silent heart attack and atrial fibrillation. EKG provides a picture of the electrical activity of the heart.
HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES (ASI) TEST		Hardened arteries cause the heart to work harder, which leads to vascular disease. ASI test shows the degree of hardening of the arteries.
ALL 3 TESTS		These cardiac tests are painless and non-invasive. The combined cost is more than \$1,300 at most hospitals.

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BLOOD CIRCULATION (ARTERIOSCLEROSIS) TEST		Many adults over 55 have leg cramps due to poor circulation. ABI screening measures extreneties for peripheral arterial disease.
ALL 3 TESTS		These vascular tests are painless and non-invasive. The combined cost is more than \$1,000 at most hospitals.

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